

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 189508
ORIGIN NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 R

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DRAFTED BY:NEA:AKKORKY

APPROVED BY:NEA:AKKORKY

S/S-O:TMARTIN

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P 270745Z JUL 78 ZFF5

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

INFO RUEHAM/AMEMBASSY AMMAN PRIORITY 4087

AMEMBASSY CAIRO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY JIDDA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS PRIORITY

S E C R E T STATE 189508

NODIS

FOLLOWING REPEAT JERUSALEM 2023 ACTION SECSTATE DATED JULY 26, 1978.

QUOTE: S E C R E T JERUSALEM 2023

NODIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (ATHERTON, ALFRED L., JR.)

SUBJECT: ATHERTON TALK WITH SAUDI DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER MANSOURI

REF: AMMAN 6146 (U.S. DEL. NO. 10)

FROM ATHERTON

U.S.DEL. NO. 15

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1. I HAD AN OPPORTUNITY FOR A FOLLOW-ON TALK WITH MANSOURI ON THE WAY TO THE AIRPORT TO TAIF MONDAY MORNING, JULY 24, DURING WHICH HE MADE THE FOLLOWING POINTS:

A. SAUDI ARABIA WOULD NOT OPPOSE FURTHER DIRECT EGYPTIAN-ISRAELI TALKS FOR NOW. IT WOULD CONTINUE TO STALL ON SUGGESTIONS FOR AN EARLY ARAB SUMMIT OR A MEETING OF THE ARAB SOLIDARITY COMMITTEE,

CHAired BY NUMEIRI, OF WHICH IT IS A MEMBER.

B. BY OCTOBER, HOWEVER, IT WILL BE NECESSARY THAT THERE BE EITHER AN EGYPTIAN-ISRAELI AGREEMENT OR A PUBLICLY STATED U.S. POSITION.

C. SAUDI ARABIA BELIEVES THAT POSITION SHOULD INCLUDE ENDORSEMENT OF AN INDEPENDENT PALESTINIAN STATE, OR AT A MINIMUM, PALESTINIAN SELF-DETERMINATION. WITH THIS EXCEPTION, SAUDI ARABIA AGREES WITH OUR ASWAN FORMULATIONS.

D. SAUDI ARABIA HAD CONSIDERED RECOMMENDING THAT SYRIA RECEIVE ME DURING MY CURRENT TRIP BUT HAD DECIDED NOT REPEAT NOT TO DO SO SINCE, AFTER HEARING MY PRESENTATION TO PRINCE SAUD, THERE WAS NOT ENOUGH NEW IN THE U.S. POSITION AT THIS TIME TO BE PERSUASIVE WITH THE SYRIANS. THE SAUDIS CONTINUE, HOWEVER, TO ATTACH IMPORTANCE TO U.S.-SYRIAN DIALOGUE AND BELIEVE TIME FOR A VISIT TO DAMASCUS MAY BE AFTER THE SECRETARY'S FORTHCOMING TRIP WHEN HOPEFULLY WE WILL HAVE MORE TO CONVEY.

2. I OUTLINED TO MANSOURI ALL THE REASONS WHY OUR ASWAN FORMULATION WAS MORE REALISTIC THAN A CALL FOR UNRESTRICTED SELF-DETERMINATION AND TOLD HIM THERE WERE A NUMBER OF EXAMPLES IN RECENT HISTORY WHERE ACTS OF SELF-DETERMINATION HAD NOT PRESENTED THE PEOPLE CONCERNED WITH A FULL RANGE OF OPTIONS. HE EXPRESSED INTEREST IN THIS, AND I UNDERTOOK TO REQUEST DEPARTMENT TO PROVIDE EMBASSY JIDDA WITH BRIEFING MATERIAL IN THIS RESPECT WHICH COULD BE MADE AVAILABLE TO THE SAUDIS.

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3. ACTION REQUESTED: THAT THE DEPARTMENT PROVIDE THE FOREGOING MATERIAL TO EMBASSY JIDDA. I SEEM TO RECALL THAT WE ALREADY HAVE ON FILE A LEGAL STUDY OF THIS SUBJECT.

4. DEPARTMENT REPEAT AMMAN, CAIRO, JIDDA, TEL AVIV, DAMASCUS.
NEWLIN UNQUOTE CHRISTOPHER

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CAT-B, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS, PEACE TALKS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 27 jul 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE189508
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: NEA:AKKORKY
Enclosure: REPEAT JERUSALEM 2023
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: N780006-0439
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 2
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780713/aaaaalbj.tel
Line Count: 101
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 482cd76b-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN NODS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Reference: 78 AMMAN 6146
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27 jun 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1866195
Secure: LOCK1
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ATHERTON TALK WITH SAUDI DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER MANSOURI
TAGS: OVIP, PBOR, MPOL, PDIP, US, SA, IS, (ATHERTON, ALFRED L JR), (MANSOURI, ABD AL-RAHMAN)
To: AMMAN CAIRO MULTIPLE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/482cd76b-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014